

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

National Capital Parks-East
Mary McLeod Bethune
Council House
National Historic Site
1318 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005



Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site

2005

Events Calendar

WOMEN CHANGE AMERICA



MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

By her own words and example, Mary McLeod Bethune demonstrated the value of education, a philosophy of universal love, and the wise and consistent use of political power in striving for racial and gender equality. The 15th of 17 children of former slaves, Bethune grew up amidst the poverty and oppression of the Reconstruction South, yet rose to prominence as an educator, presidential advisor, and political activist. In 1904, she founded the Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro Girls in Daytona Beach, Florida, which later merged with the Cookman Institute to become the Bethune-Cookman College.



Mary McLeod Bethune worked tirelessly to influence legislation affecting African Americans and women and continued to be an important voice in human rights until her death in 1955 at the age of 79. In 1935, the same year President Franklin Delano Roosevelt brought her to Washington, D.C. as a special advisor on Negro affairs, Bethune founded and became the first president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

A Victorian townhouse located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. was purchased by Mary McLeod Bethune and the Council in 1943 as the first headquarters of the NCNW. The headquarters also served as her Washington, DC residence from 1943 to 1949. Designated a National Historic Site by Congress in 1982 the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site became a unit of the National Park System in 1995.

Appropriately, the house that once served as headquarters for the NCNW contains the Archives for Black Women's History, the only institution in the United States solely dedicated to this purpose. The archival holdings include the personal papers of African American women, records of their organizations, and a collection of more than 4000 photographs that document African American women's activities in the 20th century.

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site continues to serve as a research center, an archives to preserve African American women's heritage and as a memorial to a pioneer in her field. The site commemorates the lives and contributions of African American women who perpetuate Bethune's Legacy of leadership, commitment, and service.

March

The book discussion series is designed to introduce visitors to great literature through reading and discussion programs for adults and children.

Throughout the month of March, meet renowned African American women historians and authors as the site celebrates women who have changed America through literature and art during Women's History Month. More Programs to come, TBA or call the site for more information.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Cancer of the Spirit, A novel by Carol 'Ife' Keene

March 17, 2005, 12:00 noon

Cancer of the Spirit weaves touching stories about the lives of ten unforgettable women ranging in ages of 23-79. The stories transcend racial, ethnic, social and political distinctions, and are partially based on the lives of women whose paths the author crossed at some point in her life. One or more of the women could very easily be you or someone you know. With the exception of the author's story, all the stories are fictitious. Come meet 'Ife' and receive information of how to meet others, who may have issues similar to yours, to support those who are struggling with cancer of the spirit. You may also have a success story to tell.



April

NATIONAL PARK WEEK

April 18-23, 2005, 12:00 noon daily

Discover National Park sites connected to Mary McLeod Bethune, Civil Rights, and more. Throughout the week, programs will cover the history of the National Park Service, explaining the national symbol, and answer questions about the National Park System and its role as stewards of American history.



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April 23, 2005, 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Maria Goodwin, practicing genealogist will conduct a workshop for beginners on preserving family history. “Experience Your America” school programs will also be offered throughout the month of April. Call the site to seek more about “Experience Your America” school programs.

May **MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION**

May 30, 2005, 2:00 p.m.

The National Park Service and the Illinois State Society of Washington, D.C. will commemorate the 137th Anniversary of the institution of Memorial Day. The commemoration will be held in Logan Circle Park, near 13th Street and Logan Circle Northwest, Washington, D.C. The program will include musical selections provided by the D.C. Youth Orchestra, speeches from local dignitaries, and a renowned guest speaker, and will conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony. Join us in honoring the lives of military and non-military individuals who fought and died for this country. After the park ceremony has concluded, an open house reception will be hosted by the Illinois State Society of Washington, D.C. at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, one block from Logan Circle Park.



June **DUPONT KALORAMA MUSEUM CONSORTIUM “WALK WEEKEND”**

June 4-5, 2005

The Dupont Kalorama Museums Consortium (DKMC) is an annual event established in 1983 to promote “off the mall museums and their neighborhoods”. The public is invited to visit the eight DKMC museums during Walk Weekend. DKMC member museums include: Fondo del Sol Visual Arts Center, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, Meridian



International Center, National Museum of American Jewish Military History, Society of the Cincinnati, The Phillips Collection, The Textile Museum, and The Woodrow Wilson House. Activities at the Council House include: a jazz garden reception with African Heritage Dance Troupe and Drummers from the Washington, D.C. area, arts and crafts for children ages 8-12 , and interpretive tours of the historic headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women will be given throughout this annual open house event.

July

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

July 10, 2005, 6:00 p.m.

Join the National Park Service and the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the birth of Mary McLeod Bethune as well as the 31st Anniversary of the dedication of the Bethune Memorial statue in Lincoln Park. The statue was the first monument honoring a woman in a public park in the nation's capital. The program will include musical selections, speeches from local dignitaries, and a renowned guest speaker, and will conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony in Lincoln Park on East Capital Street between 11th and 13th Streets NE, Washington D.C.



August

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

August 20 and 27, 2005, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site will sponsor its Saturday Academy program, “**Junior Historians**”. The site welcomes participants’ ages 8-12 years old, to come learn about the National Park Service, American Civil Rights leaders, and careers in the history field. Through this two day program, participants will take part in interactive activities and create new and fun ways to keep and appreciate history.

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POWER OF THE PEN PROGRAM

Friday, August 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Join park rangers as they explore the written thoughts of Mary McLeod Bethune and Maggie Lena Walker. Selected speeches and letters will be discussed, that have inspired change in American history, when women were not expected to speak out toward political action and social change.



VISITOR SERVICES AND PARK INFORMATION



Welcome to the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site (NHS) and join us as we introduce our 2005 Events Calendar! From talks, walks, and live performances to children's activities and special events, our programs are meant to enhance our visitors' understanding of the life, achievements, and legacy of Mrs. Bethune and the women of the National Council of Negro Women. We hope to see you soon!



COUNCIL HOUSE AND MUSEUM

The park is located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW in the Logan Circle District of Washington, D.C. The site is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The site is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Admission is free. Walk-in visitors are welcome. Reservations are required for groups of 10 or more. For information on school tours or group reservations, call (202)673-2402.

ARCHIVES FOR BLACK WOMEN'S HISTORY

The archives are located on the park site. Access to the archives is by appointment only. Seating is limited. For additional information on use of the archives and its holdings, please contact the archivist at (202)673-2402.

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RANGER CONDUCTED PROGRAMS

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS is a historic house museum that offers a variety of programs throughout the year for every age – from guided tours and educational programs to lectures and concerts. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule of programs. However, programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. For an update of park activities, please contact the park’s main phone number (202)673-2402.

ACCESSIBILITY

There is limited accessibility in the house. Please call ahead for special arrangements.

PARKING

Parking is extremely limited. Metered parking is available throughout the neighborhood. Commuting via Washington’s Metrorail is recommended.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House offers many volunteer opportunities. We are currently seeking docents, curatorial, and administrative volunteers. Please contact the park for more information at (202)673-2402.

BOOKSTORE

Eastern National operates the museum’s bookstore. A wide variety of theme-related publications and merchandise are available. Proceeds from sales support interpretive and educational programs.

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DIRECTIONS

FROM MARYLAND (NORTH): Take route 1 north to Baltimore Avenue until it turns into Rhode Island Avenue N.E., Washington, DC. Continue forward to the northwest section of Rhode Island Avenue to Logan Circle, N.W., make a right turn onto the circle until you reach Vermont Avenue, N.W. Make a right turn onto the 1300 block of Vermont Avenue; continue forward, 1318 Vermont Avenue will be on your right.

FROM MARYLAND (SOUTH): Take I-395 South towards Washington, D.C., take the New York Avenue exit. Continue forward toward Florida Avenue, N.E., make a right turn onto Florida Avenue. Florida Avenue will turn into U Street, N.W., once you cross 7th Street, N.W. Continue forward on U Street to 13th Street, N.W., make a right turn onto 13th Street; Continue forward onto Logan Circle. Enter the circle and make a right turn onto Vermont Avenue N.W., continue forward, 1318 Vermont Avenue will be on your right.

FROM VIRGINIA: take I-395 North to 14th Street Bridge. Continue forward on 14th Street, N.W., until you reach Thomas Circle N.W., make a right turn onto Thomas Circle. Make a right turn onto Vermont Avenue, N.W., next to the Washington Plaza Hotel. Continue forward until you reach N Street, N.W. Cross N Street and 1318 Vermont Avenue will be on your left.

METRO

THE CLOSEST STATIONS ARE:


- McPherson Square located on the Orange and Blue lines
- U Street Cardozo located on the Green line

DIRECTIONS FROM McPHERSON SQUARE METRO STATION:

Take the 14th and I Streets, N.W., exit, continue north on 14th Street, until you come to Thomas Circle N.W., at the circle, you will see the Washington Plaza Hotel and a statue of Martin Luther, this is Vermont Avenue N.W., walk up Vermont Avenue to the next intersection which will be N Street, N.W., continue forward and 1318 Vermont Avenue will be on your left.

DIRECTIONS FROM U STREET CARDOZO METRO STATION:

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Take the 13th Street, N.W., exit, continue south on 13th Street until you come to Logan Circle. Then walk to the right of Logan Circle until you come to Vermont Avenue N.W., make a right turn onto Vermont Avenue, continue forward and 1318 Vermont Avenue will be on your right.

INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, contact Site Manager, 1318 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20005, (202)673-2402, www.nps.gov/mamc.

LISTING OF COVER WOMEN

1. Marion Jones
2. Josephine Dukes
3. Mary Church Terrell
4. Ruby Dee
5. Ida B. Wells-Barnett
6. Sherian Grace Cadoria
7. Condoleezza Rice
8. Shirley Chisholm
9. Ruth Simmons
10. Marian Anderson
11. Lena Horne
12. Iman
13. Jacqueline Joyner-Kersee
14. Sojourner Truth
15. Angela Davis
16. Gwendolyn Brooks
17. Toni Morrison
18. Dorothy Height
19. Cicely Tyson
20. Wilma Rudolph
21. Johnnetta Cole
22. Fannie Lou Hamer
23. Shirley Ann Jackson
24. Maxine Waters
25. Carol Simpson
26. Valerie Daniels-Carter
27. Mary McLeod Bethune
28. Oprah Winfrey
29. Madame C. J. Walker
30. Alexa Canady
31. Maggie Walker
32. Alice Walker
33. Dr. Mae Jemison
34. Serena and Venus Williams
35. Charlotte Hawkins Brown
36. Maya Angelou
37. Winnie Mandela
38. Harriett Tubman
39. Leontyne Price
40. Sarah and Elizabeth Delany
41. Barbara Jordan
42. Rosa Parks
43. Anita Hill
44. Tina Turner
45. Nannie Helen Burroughs
46. Shirley Franklin
47. Bessie Coleman
48. Florence Griffith Joyner (Flo-Jo)
49. Coretta Scott King
50. Susan L. Taylor

